

New Era 631

Chapter 631 - Upheaval

The two chatted for a while and walked out of the grand hall.

An officer approached them with a respectful expression, saying, "Your Excellency Andre, Your Excellency Bashir, the Prime Minister requests your presence."

Andre and Bashir exchanged glances, Andre said, "Please lead the way."

Next, the two took a car to the President's Mansion and found quite a few people had arrived, including several martial artists and experts and scholars. On the wall, the curtain was silently playing the recent speech of god chen.

As the two entered, the atmosphere stirred slightly, and many people greeted them with a nod.

"Mr. Andre and Mr. Bashir, please be seated. Both of you are among the world's top-ranked powerhouses; what do you think of god chen's new cultivation method?" Joseph asked with a courteous smile.

What opinion can I have?

Andre thought cynically in his heart. He shook his head and said, "Mr. Prime Minister, it's like asking a student to comment on the knowledge taught by their teacher."

At his level, he no longer had to worry about anything. He often expressed his thoughts frankly.

"The other party's level has exceeded the realm I can understand, like a god-like existence. You can't imagine the vast difference. If I had to comment, I would say this cultivation method is difficult, so difficult that probably only a few can practice it."

Bashir didn't speak but nodded seriously with a solemn expression.

Although he hadn't personally experienced being stared at by god chen, the oppressive, heavy, and unsettling aura emitted during the demonstration still left him with lingering anxiety.

"You have no assurance?" Joseph asked.

"No assurance!" Andre replied.

If he had a slight sense of comparison before the speech, it had now vanished completely. The difference in levels was like that between a mortal and a god; all he could do was look up.

...

Inside the extended luxury car.

Chen Shouyi checked his attribute panel, and in just two days, his faith value had reached eleven hundred points, averaging over five hundred per day, more than double what it used to be.

He closed the attribute panel and looked at Su Qianyu sitting next to him, "When can we go back?"

This foreign visit's purpose had been mostly fulfilled, and he was growing restless.

Although the European Union Prime Minister and his wife were very hospitable, with activities every day if he wished, none of it intrigued Chen Shouyi. He preferred cultivation. Going without training for a day made him feel uncomfortable, let alone several days.

"Do you mean returning to Great Xia Country?" Su Qianyu asked cautiously.

She wore a black pencil skirt, paired with a short-sleeved white shirt. Her chest was bulging quiveringly, as if hiding a couple of... No, two big white rabbits inside.

Chen Shouyi withdrew his gaze and nodded.

"According to the schedule, there's another day left, but if..." Su Qianyu continued.

"Forget it, let's stay one more day," Chen Shouyi interrupted, not rushing for the day.

If he returned early, his fans in the European Union might be disappointed.

...

Unexpectedly, Chen Shouyi ended up returning early.

In the afternoon, Fang Xiangqian, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, who had not shown up, knocked on the door, his face stern, saying, "General Manager Chen, the international situation has changed; we might have to return to Great Xia Country sooner."

Chen Shoucheng was slightly shocked and asked:

"Minister Fang, what happened?"

Fang Xiangqian hesitated for a moment and said heavily, "News just came in that the United States is about to fall!"

"What!"

A chill rose from his tailbone, spreading across his entire body. The strongest country on this planet, the only superpower, was about to fall, making his scalp tingle.

"I don't know much either; the most crucial thing now is to return home." Fang Xiangqian said.

"Alright, you make the arrangements," said Chen Shouyi.

Fang Xiangqian left in a hurry.

"Brother, what's the matter?" Chen Xingyue asked.

"Nothing, pack our things, we're heading back home now!" Chen Shouyi closed the door, forcing a smile on his face.

Chen Xingyue seemed to sense something, didn't waste any words, and quickly said, "I'll pack right away."

Chen Shouyi returned to the master bedroom and sat on the bed.

"To threaten the fall of the United States, it must be at least a Barbarian God with medium Divine Power, or even... Powerful Divine Power!" he thought, feeling somewhat heavy-hearted.

Damn it!

He rubbed his face, then stopped thinking, lifted the quilt, grabbed the sleeping Shell Lady, and tucked it into his chest.

When he and Chen Xingyue walked out of the hotel, the convoy was already prepared, and everyone looked solemn:

"Coordination with the European Union has been made; we can depart at any time." Fang Xiangqian said.

Chen Shouyi nodded.

"Bang bang bang..."

The convoy doors closed with a dull sound.

Shortly, the convoy sped off under the escort of a few European Union armored vehicles. Joseph did not come to see them off; only the Foreign Minister came, but no one cared; given the circumstances, the other party was probably overwhelmed.

Soon, the transport plane flew into the sky.

...

At nine in the morning.

The plane landed at Zhonghai Airport, and Chen Shouyi and Chen Xingyue immediately took a car back.

Zhonghai remained peaceful and harmonious, countless bicycles flowed like a sea of vehicles, unaffected by the crisis in the United States on the other side of the Pacific Ocean.

But one can imagine invisible places already seething.

"Maybe the situation is not so bad!" Chen Shouyi comforted himself, given the vast Pacific Ocean; the Barbarian God's flying ability was very weak. Unless it consumed Divine Power significantly, its speed couldn't even match his consciousness flight.

"Brother, what happened?" Chen Xingyue couldn't help but ask.

"Don't ask what you shouldn't." Chen Shouyi replied. Not only was there a confidentiality level, but ordinary people knowing too much was of no benefit.

...

Days passed quietly, one after another.

Not much news about the United States came through, and during this period, Great Xia Country sent several fighter jets over, only to return without a trace. It seemed like a black hole over there, isolated from the world, with no one knowing what was happening.

...

Chen Shouyi's body quietly suspended in space, overlooking Earth.

At a distance of over ten kilometers from Earth, the air was incredibly thin, and all around was pitch-black and quiet.

The massive Earth nearby emitted dazzling blue glows.

With his sharp vision, he could clearly see various large and small nuclear craters on the North American soil, the cities devastated.

The entire continents of North and South America were shrouded in a massive Domain of Faith.

Besides, Oceania, Southeast Asia, and Yan State were also fallen, even the best-off Eurasia was dotted with Domains of Faith scattered everywhere; Earth had been two-thirds conquered.

The potential for human warfare had almost been exhausted.

Even most of the Barbarian Gods of other worlds hadn't yet turned their attention to Earth.

...

Chapter 632 - Thunderbolt

In the United States' Nevada mountain range, the light is dim, and the enormous redwoods stand like giants.

"Huff huff..."

Speedster Steven runs desperately, a faint glow emanates from his body. His body seems like a phantom while running, not making the slightest sound of wind, his speed is almost comparable to Chen Shouyi's when he transforms into a giant on Earth.

This is a kind of body phasing ability he gained mysteriously after merging with a Divine Artifact Fragment twenty years ago, providing this mysterious and powerful bloodline ability.

Over the past decade, as his power grew stronger, especially after stepping into the legendary realm, his body underwent a transformation, making his speed increasingly extraordinary, surpassing ordinary Barbarian Gods.

However, in this moment, he felt no sense of security.

Endless fear gripped his heart like a terrifying giant hand, making it almost impossible to breathe.

"Human, why run... submit..."

A subtle whisper echoed in his ear, seemingly near yet far, like a devil whispering.

A breeze passed, leaves gently rubbed, making a rustling sound.

Steven widened his eyes, looking around in terror.

"I'm omnipresent... I am your god, the Almighty... I wield the power of thunder, lightning is my incarnation, I am supreme..."

Along with the whisper, a "boom" resounded from above, a dull thunderclap followed.

A "fuck" rolled in his throat, but ultimately he dared not speak it aloud.

This terrifying deity had previously occupied the whole of South America without moving, maintaining peace between them, yet when it struck, it was with a thunderous blow.

Indeed, a thunderous blow.

Before the war broke out, it was during a once-in-decades-long downpour, most states were affected by the heavy rain, and the army was unprepared.

At that moment, the terrifying storm descended.

First, a nationwide blackout, communication disruption, a day later Hua Mansion fell, and states began acting independently...

The mutation's impact, when considering which country suffered the most loss and impact.

Undoubtedly, it was the United States, its vast arsenal, advanced weaponry, world-dominating fleet, and global military bases all turned to nothing overnight.

From the world's sole superpower, it was pulled back to the starting line with other major powers, beginning anew.

Though its abundant foundation and vast research prowess allowed technology to recover faster than others, it wasn't much faster, reaching similar levels.

In just over a dozen days, only sporadic resistance remains within the entire United States.

...

"Foolish humans..."

A sigh echoed in his ears, perhaps angry, perhaps regretful, perhaps nothing at all.

Steven chose to ignore it entirely, sprinting rapidly.

To make him surrender to the Barbarian God was impossible.

He didn't notice that the electric charges in the air were becoming denser, threads of lightning flickered, and the world grew increasingly oppressive. Suddenly, his whole body stiffened, his blood seemed congealed.

In the depths of his soul, he sensed a terrible gaze locking onto him.

It was light, it was lightning, it was destruction, it was death!

The defense of his mind crumbled instantly, and his mind was filled with endless fear.

"Boom!"

The next moment, a thick bolt of lightning struck his body fiercely.

The terrifying current extinguished all life in him in an instant, and his body began to burn fiercely.

...

In another world.

Snowy mountains.

Snow covered the area, the mountain winds were fierce, the temperature cold enough to freeze water instantly.

Chen Shouyi's half-naked body emitted steam, permeating with intense heat.

He gazed at a property panel.

"Atmospheric Mastery (Advanced): 70.05%."

These days, his Faith Value growth rate had begun to slow, but still increased by more than three hundred daily. In a dozen days, he had already raised "Atmospheric Mastery" to 70.05%.

"Let's try again."

Chen Shouyi swiftly flew to the opposite mountain top.

Seven or eight kilometers away, a massive "White Dragon" clung to a ridge, hunting. At the sight of his sharp gaze, its huge wings frantically flapped, forcing an arc, turning to flee.

These days, Chen Shouyi had already become the lord here.

No creature dared challenge him; he had killed several "White Dragons" like this one.

His body instantly expanded, swiftly transforming into a magnificent giant 40 meters tall, with threads of lightning arcing over him.

The next moment, he stomped his foot hard.

"Boom!"

It was as if the mountaintop was struck by dozens of cruise missiles, half of it shattered.

The "White Dragon" couldn't help glancing back, its eyes bulged, almost scared out of its wits, scales standing rigidly. It saw a terrifying giant becoming larger before its eyes, rapidly approaching.

"I'm doomed, I'm doomed, I'm doomed..."

Just as despair set in, the giant's massive foot stomped through the air again.

"Boom!"

It was like stepping on the water's surface, a transparent ripple radiated into the air. His body propelled forward swiftly, and within a few breaths, the giant had already leaped over its head, continuing towards the distance.

The "White Dragon", surviving the calamity, had no time to relax.

A shockwave hit it, flinging its massive body like a falling leaf, tumbling through the air until it collided with the mountain waist, finally coming to rest. Luckily, its tough hide and strong defense resulted in only minor injuries from the collision.

It shook its head, emerging from the rubble and broken ice.

Its terrified eyes stared into the distance at the giant, now a small dot, filled with lingering fear.

...

Chen Shouyi strode forward, every step down, without any thought, automatically solidifying the air beneath his feet.

This was the innate ability, needing no deliberate control.

As natural as eating and drinking water.

However, even at 70.05% advanced atmospheric mastery, it would still shatter at the moment of impact.

In giant transformation, his body mass reached three thousand tons.

Under the otherworld's triple gravity, if his weight were still measured in tons, it would be nine thousand tons, nearly ten thousand tons.

And that's just his weight. Combined with explosive power, each step he took detonated with the energy of one hundred tons of TNT.

Not to mention solidified air, even the ground had craters tens of meters in diameter blasted out.

Fortunately, each step's effect lasted only an instant, the immense instantaneous reaction force enough to propel him forward in the air.

The world echoed with the intense rumbling of his steps, setting off avalanches in the snowy mountains beneath his feet.

Terrifying shockwaves traced a straight line, rippling one after another, like skipping stones on a lake, leaving ripples, an awe-inspiring beauty.

Of course, they could only be admired from a distance. An ordinary person nearby would be torn apart by the shockwaves in an instant.

"Speed roughly 300 meters per second. Faster than last time, but still not enough!" He judged his speed inwardly.

The speed was only half of his ground speed.

He dared not run too far.

After racing for over ten kilometers, he stopped abruptly, his body hovering momentarily for 0.1 seconds, the solidified air shattering as he was about to fall. Before he began to drop, he turned to run back.

Chapter 633 - Another Supernatural Talent

The sun was setting in the west, and the sky was a crimson red, signaling the approach of dusk.

From the factories on both sides of the road, a large number of scantily-clad female workers poured out, chattering away. Despite their tired faces, they were full of laughter and joy, completely unaware that the last glimmer of human civilization was on the brink of collapse.

Chen Shouyi pushed his bicycle into the garage and walked to the living room.

"Mom, I'm back."

"Why are you so late today?" Mrs. Chen said.

"I got held up on the road. Mom, I'll be entering closed practice starting tomorrow, so I won't be home at night," Chen Shouyi thought for a moment and said. At home, apart from meditating and refining himself, he couldn't train the Thirty-Six Styles of Horizontal Training, resulting in a lot of wasted time.

"Your main affairs are important, be safe!" Mrs. Chen quickly said. To her, closed-door practice was always a good thing; the stronger her son was, the safer he would be in case of danger. She then asked, "Has something happened recently?"

"What's wrong?" Chen Shouyi was stunned for a moment and asked.

"We've had two air raid drills this week alone."

"Well, maybe," Chen Shouyi said ambiguously. "Just pay attention to it."

...

After dinner, Chen Shouyi picked up today's newspaper and returned to his room.

After giving Shell Lady a bath, he went to the bathroom to take a shower himself, changed his clothes, and then began to read.

"According to the Agricultural and Rural Department's crop report, a major summer grain harvest is nearly certain this year. With the adoption of new seeds and the domestic situation becoming relatively stable, the grain output is expected to double this year..."

"The President warmly welcomed the visiting Prime Minister of Rising Sun Country, and the two had a friendly and amiable conversation. In the afternoon's meeting, the two parties signed a joint defense agreement, according to which Great Xia Country will dispatch a strategic missile unit to Rising Sun Country to jointly resist the threat of the Barbarian God..."

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a delegation to Tai Buddha Country and Ah Qiong Khan, where they were warmly welcomed by both countries. These delegations will help strengthen relations with other countries, establish a military mutual trust mechanism, and maintain regional stability..."

The so-called "neighboring countries" are, in fact, fallen territories controlled by the God of Conspiracy and the God of Power.

While these news reports appear calm on the surface, internally, there are undercurrents brimming, as if a storm is brewing.

These days, Chen Shouyi felt increasingly oppressed.

The fall of the United States dealt a devastating blow to human morale and confidence. Even after the anomaly, with all countries returning to the starting line, none dared to confidently claim they were stronger than the United States.

If even the United States fell in such a short time, what hope was there for other countries?

Chen Shouyi closed the newspaper and walked to the window.

After a large number of people and factories from Hedong City moved to this new area, it had become increasingly lively, making him momentarily feel like he was in a Safe Zone.

He checked the attribute panel:

Strength: 21.3

Agility: 21.3

Constitution: 21.4

Intelligence: 21.2

Perception: 21.1

Will: 20.8

Energy Accumulation: 27.28

Faith Value: 378.5

Since his transformation, it felt like he had broken the shackles of his body. His progress was rapid, with most of his attributes having increased by more than five layers in less than three months.

At this moment, he had a thought and burned some Faith Value.

Intelligence quickly became $21.2 + 2.8$.

Then he swiftly canceled it.

"If the intelligence level of a medium-grade Divine Power is 27 points, then my current level is certainly not a match for a medium-grade Divine Power," Chen Shouyi contemplated.

"A difference of three points is equivalent to a 3.3 times gap. This difference is too large, and even with the Divine Artifact Armor, it cannot be compensated for."

"There are only two solutions now. One is to continue enhancing Giant Transformation, using overwhelming power and defense to make up for it. A slow-moving elephant, no matter how agile a cheetah is, would not dare to challenge it. Even if it cannot kill, it can still remain invincible."

"The other is to enhance atmospheric control, limiting the opponent's speed and agility!"

Chen Shouyi frowned slightly:

"Forget it, I'll first upgrade atmospheric control to super level. It only costs about three thousand Faith Value. Let's see the effects first and then decide. At the current growth rate of Faith Value, it will only take about ten days."

...

Early the next morning, Chen Shouyi purchased a batch of supplies and headed for closed practice in another world.

Where he stayed was very close to the passage. If something happened and someone came to the other world to find him, he could be aware in time.

...

Ten days later.

Atop a mountain peak.

The sky was gloomy.

The fierce wind howled, and a terrifying tornado hundreds of meters high seemed to connect the sky and earth, rotating wildly. Countless ice layers and rocks were easily torn apart, swept up into the sky, intermittently lighting up with flashes of lightning.

"Ah!"

Inside the eye of the tornado.

Chen Shouyi, naked, knelt on the ground and roared loudly. His whole body was a fiery red as if it were burning, and the intense heat was almost melting his body. His genes were undergoing a dramatic transformation, and his bloodline was transitioning.

He suddenly hammered the ground.

"Boom!"

The mountains and rocks shattered, and then were swept up and engulfed by the surrounding tornado.

His body gradually floated upwards, his hair flying, like a terrifying Wind God. Not only was the air being drawn by an invisible force, but even the surrounding Original Force was converted into a terrifying hurricane.

All the creatures in the icefield seemed to feel the coming of a natural disaster, fleeing frantically without looking back, wishing they had more legs.

Shell Lady squatted on another mountain top, cast a disdainful glance at the fleeing "Giant Beasts," silently mocking them. She, the little one, was not afraid of the good Giant, then glanced at the good Giant again, her small mouth forming an "(◉o◉)" shape.

The high temperature inside his body lasted for a full ten seconds before slowly subsiding.

Suspended in mid-air, Chen Shouyi, with a thought, instantly stopped the violent wind, and everything became calm and peaceful.

He looked at the attribute panel.

"Atmospheric Control (Super): 0.01%"

It's finally done!

He lightly stamped the solidified air underfoot, feeling a slight solid texture.

"At this strength, ordinary human legendary power might not be much better than being glued in glue." Chen Shouyi mused, "I just wonder how effective it will be against medium-grade Divine Power entities?"

A trace of fierceness flashed across his face.

The God of Flames...

He hadn't forgotten that humiliation.

It's etched in his heart.

"Whoosh"

Shell Lady swiftly flew over like a bullet, landing on his shoulder in the blink of an eye, her face flushed with excitement, her childish voice exclaimed, "Good Giant, you're amazing, you scared all the 'Giant Beasts' away."

The coldness on Chen Shouyi's face faded: "You're amazing too! Come on, let's go back!"

Flattered, Shell Lady beamed and began chattering non-stop.

Chen Shouyi nodded and responded from time to time.

These days, if it weren't for the little one accompanying him, he would have found it hard to endure such solitude.

In less than a minute, he had already returned to the original place, walking into the ice cave with Shell Lady.

The ice cave was already lined with thick furs. Creatures living in extreme cold mostly had dense fur, which was very warm. In addition, the place was sheltered from the wind, so although it looked cold, the actual temperature was only around zero degrees.

Chapter 634 - Reunion

Chen Shouyi's mood was quite good after just upgrading his super talent.

Super talent and advanced talent form a dividing line. Perhaps calling it a divine-level talent is more appropriate, as even a mortal with this talent can compete against deities.

However, once it reaches the super level, the faith value required for an upgrade increases sharply.

Even for his most effort-consuming Giant Transformation, the progress is only at 10% super level.

He opened the attributes panel and glanced at Self-Healing, which was still at 70% advanced, contemplating whether to prioritize upgrading it to the super level, as there might be a surprising transformation,

After eating some food and playing around with Shell Lady for a while,

he began training in deep meditation to refine himself. After exhausting his mental energy, he would rest. Once recovered, he continued with the deep meditation training, repeating this cycle for five rounds until the recovery speed slowed significantly, and he stopped.

He took a short three-hour nap.

Next, he started practicing the Thirty-six Horizontal Training Techniques.

There was no day or night, only monotony and perseverance. Chen Shouyi ate over ten times in twenty-four hours, needing to empty his stomach every three or four hours, and he consumed a bag of salt daily for replenishment.

If not for the nourishing meat paste from the Powerful Divine Power and his self-healing ability, anyone else, even with the same power, would have long been overwhelmed by the intensity of the training.

In the following days of experimentation, the benefits of super-level mastery over the atmosphere gradually became apparent.

Not only did his air-running speed begin to exceed the speed of sound, but even his land-running speed also increased, facing less wind resistance.

...

Chen Shouyi finished his fourteen days of seclusion, and several soldiers guarding the passageway came looking for him.

He cleaned his body with a commanding will, changed his clothes, picked up Shell Lady, and stepped out of the spatial passage.

Bai Xiaoling had been waiting outside for a while.

Her trim professional outfit made her look sharp and decisive, and she immediately approached Chen Shouyi upon seeing him.

"What's the matter?" Chen Shouyi asked seriously, assuming there was some new task.

"Auntie asked you to come home," Bai Xiaoling said.

"Nothing happened at home, right?" Chen Shouyi's expression froze for a moment, and he asked hurriedly.

"No, it seems your family has guests, and you're being asked to come home," Bai Xiaoling explained.

Chen Shouyi sighed with relief and said, "Alright."

...

Jiang Yanyan sat nervously in the luxurious living room, feeling a mix of excitement and anxiety.

She could never have imagined, even in her dreams, that her cousin was the chief martial arts adviser of the Great Xia Country, Chen Shouyi. Recently, he even went abroad for a visit, and a photo of him shaking hands with the European Union's Prime Minister appeared in the People's Daily.

When she first heard about it from her father, she thought he was talking nonsense.

How could such a prominent figure, seen only in the news, be connected to them? Even as she accompanied her parents to this luxurious villa, she still felt dazed and intensely unreal.

Glancing at her cousin beside her, she noticed that this person, who passed the Martial Artist assessment last year and usually was eloquent, now looked worse off than she was, with legs trembling incessantly.

"Yanyan, and Yuan Yuan, don't be so restrained, eat, just treat it as if it's your home," Mrs. Chen said with a cheerful mood and smile.

"Thank you, Auntie," Jiang Jiayi said with a slight bow.

Jiang Yuan quickly lifted his backside off the chair as well.

"Sister, actually, Chen... Shouyi is so busy, it's best not to bother him," Uncle Jiang Hongrui said with a smile.

Second uncle Jiang Qihui concurred, "Yes, yes, seclusion is important."

"No matter how busy, he still needs to recognize his relatives. It won't take much time," Father Chen replied with a smile.

Chen Xingyue sat on the side like an ornament. She hadn't met any of these relatives before and had to maintain a smile; her face was numb, yet she couldn't leave, so she sat stiffly, enduring the ordeal.

Just then, the sound of a bicycle came from the yard.

She breathed a sigh of relief.

Her brother had finally arrived.

Before long, a handsome young man walked through the door.

The light shone on his face, giving off a slightly sparkling glow, creating a mysterious yet thrilling aura.

Everyone instinctively stood up.

"Dad, Mom, I'm back. Who are these?" Chen Shouyi scanned the room, smiling as he spoke, having already guessed the answer.

"You're back; this is your Uncle," Mrs. Chen pointed to a middle-aged man, introducing him with a smile.

"Hello, Uncle," Chen Shouyi quickly greeted.

Jiang Hongrui replied awkwardly, "Ah, good, good, good!"

Words of success wouldn't even form; the other was not just successful but had already reached the heavens.

"This is your Aunt."

...

"This is your Second Uncle."

...

After greeting all the elders, Chen Shouyi moved on to the juniors, finding it more relaxed.

"This is your cousin Jiang Yanyan, just call her Yanyan."

"Hello, Yanyan."

"Brother!" Jiang Yanyan said, blushing as she fiddled with her skirt.

"This is your cousin Jiang Yuan, three years older than you!"

"Brother!" Chen Shouyi said.

Jiang Yuan's face turned red hearing this, stammering, "Chen... General Manager Chen, just... just call me by my name."

He usually admired General Manager Chen the most, feeling immensely awkward having someone akin to the God of Martial Arts calling him brother; he truly felt unworthy.

"Yes, yes, Shouyi, just call names," Aunt quickly interjected.

"The seniority is all messed up," Mrs. Chen said with a grin.

"Calling by names is better. Everyone's unfamiliar, so they probably don't feel comfortable," Uncle commented, as the juniors had never met before, making intimacy unlikely.

Even Chen Shouyi felt slightly awkward. After a moment's hesitation, he said, "Alright, I'll call you Jiang Yuan, and you can call me by my name; there's no need to use General Manager Chen, that's for outsiders."

"Then... then I'll really call you... Shouyi."

Though he was three years older than Chen Shouyi, he couldn't hide his excitement.

It's quite understandable, facing such a legendary figure, even as a mere Martial Artist, how could he remain calm? If not for this familial connection, forget about being an artist, even a grand martial artist or a Martial Master wouldn't dare to get close.

Beside them, Jiang Yanyan's beautiful eyes never left Chen Shouyi.

So handsome!

And he's actually my cousin... It's a pity he's my cousin!

...

With Chen Shouyi's arrival, everyone naturally centered around him. Fortunately, he was already accustomed to it, as even walking down the street would attract all kinds of stares.

The former required patient handling, while the latter only necessitated a calm, unemotional demeanor to ignore them.

Through conversation, he found the conditions of both Uncles' families to be quite decent. The eldest uncle worked at a bank, the eldest aunt was a civil servant, while the second uncle and second aunt worked for a state-owned enterprise, doing reasonably well.

Shortly after lunch, both uncle families said their goodbyes.

Chen Shouyi breathed a sigh of relief, feeling more exhausted than after a day of training.

Chapter 635 - They Really Are Afraid of Fire

After the two uncles left, Mrs. Chen sighed and felt emotional.

After all, they were blood relatives. Nearly twenty years had passed, and seeing her two brothers, who were now old, any deep-seated grievances were resolved, leaving only a strong family bond.

"In the future, take care of your two uncles a bit more; it hasn't been easy for them all these years," Mrs. Chen told Chen Shouyi.

"Yes, I know," Chen Shouyi replied, understanding her intention.

Nevertheless, both uncles were considerate people; at least today, they didn't hint at borrowing money or seeking favors.

In front of his parents, he dialed the State Office's phone number:

"This is Chen Shouyi. I need eighteen vials of Demigod Blood... No need for True God Blood... Yes! That's enough... Okay, thank you."

The other party didn't even mention any merit points. For the current Chen Shouyi, as long as it was not excessive, any amount of Divine Blood was supplied free, not to mention Demigod Blood.

After a few words, Chen Shouyi hung up the phone and said to his somewhat stunned family, "Dad, Mom! You should deliver it then."

Since he was back, he had no intention of heading to another world and planned to rest at home for a day.

Unexpectedly, in the evening, he received a call from a high-ranking official in Zhonghai City.

...

Li Yuanwu leaned against the wall, took out a pack of cigarettes, skillfully flicked out two, tossed one to Zhang Mingtao, and lit one in his mouth, taking a deep drag before exhaling a puff of smoke. Watching the bustling pedestrians on the street, he said:

"I hate Natural Spirits the most. Do you have any leads?"

It was clearly a blazing sun, yet the area felt eerie, imbued with a touch of unease.

Due to the short time, the impact was not significant yet, and the affected area hadn't been evacuated.

Natural Spirits on Earth were not considered dangerous for physically powerful Martial Artists, but they were the hardest to deal with, like facing the air, with no chance to exert one's strength.

The best method is to use Incendiary Bullets.

But this is an urban area, affecting a range of several square kilometers. If Incendiary Bullets were used, a large section of the city would be destroyed, too great a cost, and if the fire couldn't be controlled, it would be even worse.

Zhang Mingtao shook his head, exhaling a mouthful of smoke gloomily: "Martial Artists can't handle this kind of thing. Do we need to dispatch Legendary Powerhouses?"

"Zhonghai has no Legendary Powerhouses!" Li Yuanwu chuckled.

"It does." Zhang Mingtao stated succinctly.

"Who?" Li Yuanwu asked, momentarily stunned.

"General Manager Chen!"

"General Manager Chen is not just any Legendary; he's a Sub-god!" Li Yuanwu realized, almost forgetting about the presence of this Great God in Zhonghai City. The images of Chen Shouyi's speech in the European Union had by now been spread nationwide, and the term Sub-god for those above legendary had gained worldwide consensus.

"More or less." Zhang Mingtao succinctly replied, then thought for a moment and added, "For us, anyway."

"This is Godslayer-level stuff, hardly just 'more or less,' such a task wouldn't trouble him!" Li Yuanwu laughed.

The sun gradually set, the cold aura thickened, making one's hair stand on end unconsciously.

Soon, except for soldiers, the streets were deserted, with stores on both sides quickly closing down, leaving the whole street empty. All the factories had temporarily canceled night shifts these past few days, fearing accidents.

At this moment, a person hurried over.

"Director Zhao, why are you here?" Li Yuanwu laughed, "Did you find any clues?"

"I've been looking for you for a while!" Director Zhao said. "I just got a call, General Manager Chen is going to be here soon, let's go welcome him."

"What?" The previously composed Zhang Mingtao exclaimed, his face suddenly tensing up, "Chen... General Manager Chen is coming."

"Yes, invited personally by the city official, and they agreed to come, so everyone should pay attention." Director Zhao said.

Confronting such a big shot, how could I not pay attention? Li Yuanwu internally complained.

They quickly hurried to the street corner, craning their necks and waiting patiently. They waited for a full hour until the sky gradually darkened, and they saw a figure riding a cargo bicycle quickly approaching from afar.

Director Zhao's eyes lit up, and he hurriedly whispered to those around him, "That's General Manager Chen, he likes riding a bike!"

As someone in the military, he still knew quite a bit of intel about General Manager Chen.

"So modest, so simple, truly a model for the Martial Artist, worthy of being the God of Martial Arts!" the usually taciturn Zhang Mingtao praised.

Li Yuanwu couldn't help but glance at the bushy-browed, big-eyed Zhang Mingtao.

Just as they were speaking, Chen Shouyi had already swiftly approached.

"Hello, General Manager Chen, we're here waiting for you."

Chen Shouyi stopped the bike with a foot brake, glanced at the three of them, and asked puzzled, "Who are you?"

Everyone felt a weight, a heavy pressure coming at them, their hearts couldn't help but pound violently as they hurriedly introduced themselves one by one.

Chen Shouyi nodded, parked his bicycle, locked it, and still feeling uneasy, threw it into the space, then turned his head and asked:

"Sorry to keep you waiting, tell me about the situation here."

Li Yuanwu was stunned, just about to speak when Zhang Mingtao had already opened his mouth:

"Hello, General Manager Chen. The fact is, since three days ago, this area has suddenly become eerie at night. Quite a few people have reported seeing ghosts, and so far dozens have died, but they were mostly seriously ill elderly people."

"Natural Spirits?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"That's our guess too." Zhang Mingtao cautiously responded.

Chen Shouyi looked ahead, at the eerie domain in the distance, looking like a ghostly realm.

This spirit is quite powerful!

Of course, compared to those he had seen before, for him, it was only a small matter.

"Let's go, take a look," Chen Shouyi said.

A group of people immediately centered around Chen Shouyi, swiftly approached the area ahead.

By this time, it was completely dark, and the streetlights began to glow.

From the windows of the residential areas on both sides, flames could be seen occasionally, smoke seeping out from inside.

Noticing Chen Shouyi's glance, Li Yuanwu seized the opportunity to joke, "They're burning basins. Some people said ghosts are afraid of fire, so every night, these residents light a fire basin in their homes."

"Natural Spirits are indeed afraid of fire!" Chen Shouyi glanced at him, speaking matter-of-factly.

He remembered that crematoria often used this trick, he had been to several in Hedong, carrying out cremations every week.

"Uh, yes," Li Yuanwu said awkwardly, having intended to lighten the atmosphere due to its seriousness.

He certainly knew Natural Spirits were afraid of fire; it was a must-know for Martial Arts Academy.

"It just easily causes fires," Chen Shouyi continued.

"No need to worry about that. Soldiers patrol everywhere at night, and the fire department is on standby at all times. Any fire is quickly discovered," Director Zhao hurriedly said.

Chapter 636 - Something Feels Off

The three of them could clearly feel that as long as they stayed beside Chen Shouyi, the originally cold aura dissipated quickly like mist under the scorching sun, and even the light became slightly brighter. They couldn't help but feel secretly shocked; this kind of power was simply unimaginable.

Chen Shouyi took several turns and, within a few minutes, stopped in front of some ruins.

This was a pile of ruins left by collapsed buildings, now only a half-crumbled wall and a mess of bricks remained.

Zhang Mingtao tentatively asked, "President Chen, have you seen the Natural Spirits?"

"No, not yet, but this should be the source." Chen Shouyi shook his head and said.

"Could it be a Spatial Passage?" Director Zhao said, "I'll go make a call to get an excavator here!"

"No need, it's a waste of time!"

Chen Shouyi stepped onto the ruins, where rich Original Force mixed with a cold aura emanated out.

"It's here."

Following his intuition to find the location, he turned back and said, "Everyone, spread out a bit."

The group dared not hesitate and scattered quickly at his command.

In the next moment, everyone felt a heaviness in their hearts, only to see countless stones defy gravity, shooting out like fountains in all directions.

Some of the solidified concrete even weighed several tons, yet it was still flung away by an invisible force.

Everyone watched this miraculous scene with faces full of wonder, instinctively retreating further. It only took a few seconds for a large section of the ruins to be cleared, revealing the foundation below.

Chen Shouyi leaped in, stamping his foot forcefully.

"Boom!"

The blast wave erupted, making everyone's ears ring with explosions.

All ears rang loudly, and they were aghast.

No matter how strong or terrifying the rumors of this existence were, seeing it with their own eyes was an entirely different level of shock, beyond comprehension.

With Chen Shouyi's current strength of 21.4, even without transforming, the strength of his arms reached ten tons, and his legs, needing to be multiplied by three, reached thirty tons.

Though far less than in his Giant Transformation, the power of one stomp was about equivalent to one kilogram of TNT.

The equivalent of a 76mm high-explosive shell, or moving a one-ton object 420 meters.

The sound of explosions was ceaseless.

After stamping over a dozen times, the roadside beneath his feet began to crumble, soon revealing a Spatial Passage five to six meters in diameter.

His body hovered slightly and then entered the other world without hesitation.

...

Seeing President Chen enter the Spatial Passage and disappear.

"Should we go take a look?" Li Yuanwu swallowed and suggested.

"Yeah, together!" Zhang Mingtao nodded in agreement.

"I have no objections either!" Director Zhao voiced his agreement.

Witnessing the combat of one of the world's top masters was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Missing this chance might mean never encountering one again, not to mention they were dealing with a mysterious Natural Spirit; the curiosity was like a cat's scratching.

Their opinions aligned, they approached the Spatial Passage.

The Spatial Passage was formless and intangible, like a connection between two spaces. From here, they could observe the conditions on the other side, such as height, whether it was land or water.

Fortunately, the height wasn't high, only about two meters from the ground.

For a Martial Artist, it was no concern at all.

The group quickly jumped down, and before they could see clearly, their bodies were blown rolling on the ground by a gust of wind.

Li Yuanwu quickly grabbed a nearby branch to steady himself, looked up, and was immediately stunned. A grand Giant holding a bone club was striding towards a dark mountain range nearby, with arcs of electricity flickering around him.

Thud, thud, thud...

Each step of the Giant caused the ground to tremble, and rocks bounced.

And the wind here was merely the airflow stirred by his movement.

"This... is this... President Chen!?" Zhang Mingtao bent over, struggling against the strong wind, stammered.

"It... it should be!" Li Yuanwu also felt his legs go weak.

Who else but President Chen, especially when... the torn layers of his fabric were still flying in the sky.

"Where's Lao Zhao?" Li Yuanwu, eyes fixed on the Giant ahead, asked.

"Behind you." Director Zhao quickly caught up, excitedly saying, "Today's an eye-opener; we can brag about this for a lifetime."

While they were talking, the Giant suddenly sped up.

The air was like the sea torn apart by a giant wheel, lifting the earth and trees into the air, even blocking out the sun. He surged towards the mountain, surrounded by a ring of transparent shockwaves.

In the next moment, the Giant stomped the ground again, his colossal body soaring into the sky, quickly becoming a small dot.

Then, the bone club heavily smashed down onto the mountain peak.

A shockwave flashed by, accompanied by blinding flames rising. The mountaintop had turned to dust, rocks flying.

Kilometers away, the group watched the breathtaking scene in a daze, feeling their scalp tingle and bodies stiffen.

After blasting away half of the mountain, Chen Shouyi didn't stop, the air beneath his feet solidified automatically, and with a slight leverage, he once again smashed downward.

Transparent shockwaves erupted consecutively, flattening the mountain.

"Boom, boom, boom..."

"I... I feel something's not right..." Li Yuanwu stammered, watching the flying trees and huge rocks in the distance.

"I... feel the same." Zhang Mingtao's face looked grim.

The group exchanged glances.

In the next moment, a wave blew them away again.

"Ahhh..."

Everyone screamed harshly.

No one knew how far they flew or how many somersaults they turned before finally rolling to the ground. Fortunately, this was a grassland with soft soil, and they were all Martial Artists, a bit battered but uninjured.

The group stood up, covered in dust, still with lingering fear.

It was terrifying; even from kilometers away, they didn't expect to be affected.

...

The severe damage to the mountain rendered the Natural Spirit residing within unable to hold back any longer. Threads of dark wind like tentacles fluttered upwards, bringing a chilling air that dimmed even the sunshine overhead.

In just half a second, the dark wind gathered into a towering, over twenty meters high, phantom of a hideous beast, silently roaring and charging at Chen Shouyi.

He felt a slight disturbance in his consciousness, squinting his eyes slightly.

"This Natural Spirit is quite strong!"

His will gathered, the interference in his mind was entirely blocked out. At the same time, an invisible power spread, dissipating the cold atmosphere in the air. With a pure willpower reaching twenty-one points, approaching the Divine Power of a Demigod, how could a mere Natural Spirit withstand it?

The previously fierce Natural Spirit keenly sensed danger and was nearly scared out of its wits, trying to scatter its body and merge back into the earth.

However, it was too late.

With just a thought from Chen Shouyi,

the enormous phantom Natural Spirit was fixed in mid-air, its body rapidly melting as if drenched in acid.

Chapter 637 - Hope

For Chen Shouyi, who had already killed several True Gods, dealing with a Natural Spirit was effortless.

In just a few seconds, this Natural Spirit, which was terrifying to ordinary people, was cleansed by his will without a trace. The mental energy consumed was less than one-third. He threw the bone club back into the spatial passage, shrank his body, took out a set of clothes to change into, and then started heading back.

"General Manager Chen!"

"General Manager Chen!"

...

The three of them stood obediently at the passage entrance like three little quails. As they watched General Manager Chen approach, their legs couldn't help but feel a bit weak.

"Why are you here as well?" Chen Shouyi noticed their tattered clothes and the bloodstains on them, asking with some surprise, "Did something happen? Are you alright?"

"No... no, we just... accidentally fell!" Li Yuanwu wiped the blood off his face and said hastily.

The other two nodded vigorously upon hearing this.

Could it be that they were affected by the aftermath of your battle? They glanced at the flattened mountaintop and couldn't help swallowing their saliva.

This doesn't seem human at all!

Chen Shouyi didn't think much of it: "Then let's head back."

"What about the... Natural Spirit?" Director Zhao asked nervously.

"It's been dealt with," Chen Shouyi replied.

...

The four of them walked out of the spatial passage.

Chen Shouyi took out a bicycle from the space: "Everyone, since it's settled, I'll be off first."

"Take care, take care."

"General Manager Chen, you're too kind."

...

The three of them watched as General Manager Chen gracefully mounted the bicycle, pushing off with his foot, riding further and further away until he disappeared from view before they returned to their senses.

"I find General Manager Chen to be quite approachable," Li Yuanwu said.

"The higher the status, the greater the demeanor. He feels approachable, like a breath of spring," Director Zhao sighed.

"And very handsome!" Zhang Mingtao added.

The other two were stunned by this and looked simultaneously at Zhang Mingtao, who seemed confused.

"What are you looking at me for?" Zhang Mingtao asked.

"Nothing, nothing." Li Yuanwu said, subtly distancing himself a bit.

Director Zhao checked his watch, pretending to hide his amusement: "Uh, it's getting late. You two stay at the spatial passage. I'll go notify the military district!"

...

The night was dark and tranquil, with the only light coming from the dim glow of street lamps.

It had been nearly three years since the changes began, yet electricity remained scarce, far from ample enough to supply residents, and a significant portion of industry was still powered by steam.

Chen Shouyi rode his bicycle back swiftly.

The hot and stuffy summer night wind brought a touch of comfort as it blew against his face. After spending over half a month in another world, he felt a sense of joy even during a nighttime ride.

"Rumble..."

A distant thunder rolled, and as he looked up at the sky, he found the air already shrouded in dark clouds.

"Looks like it's going to rain..."

Chen Shouyi immediately increased his speed and managed to reach home just before the downpour.

As soon as he shut the window, the rain began to pour, with the raindrops beating against the glass with a pattering sound.

"What a heavy rain!" the Shell Lady said affectionately, perched like an ornament on Chen Shouyi's head.

"Are you hungry?" Chen Shouyi asked, drawing the curtains to drown out the rain noise.

"Little one is not hungry!" the Shell Lady replied.

After giving the Shell Lady a bath and tossing her onto the bed, Chen Shouyi didn't bother with her anymore. He took off his clothes, went to the bathroom for a shower, and then walked into the study to pick up a book titled "Universe, Dimensions, and Mathematics" from the bookshelf.

The bookshelf and the books within were there when he moved in, and whenever he had time, he would often peruse them.

Since becoming a Sub-god, he could see countless things invisible to ordinary people, mysteries of countless worlds that seemed to appear and disappear before his eyes. He could see electromagnetic fields, see the colorful spectrum of sunlight, observe the Domain of Faith... and even perceive the ridges on seemingly smooth glass surfaces.

The more he saw, the more acutely he felt the lack of his own knowledge.

He vaguely sensed that he could become even more powerful, but his knowledge and perspective limited his strength.

This book was about four-dimensional space.

The content was quite abstruse, likely leaving ordinary people baffled, but Chen Shouyi found it utterly fascinating.

Because he could perceive the existence of the "fourth dimension."

Maybe it's... the fourth dimension.

Just like a computer screen is a two-dimensional plane, yet ordinary people can appreciate seemingly real three-dimensional images. His three-dimensional vision could similarly, through a sense of perspective, form a vague four-dimensional understanding in his mind.

His vision was quite unique. For instance, if a cup was on the table, ordinary people could only see the front, but he could simultaneously see the front, back, and inside of the cup.

Even with just a sliver of light, no matter how dark, he could see everything clearly, like a skirt... It was an incomparable visual impact, and these were just aspects he could comprehend.

There were other things his brain couldn't understand.

People are innately devoid of a sense of four-dimensions and can't imagine or comprehend things beyond their reach, much like two-dimensional beings that can grasp length and width but can't visualize height.

In just a few minutes, he finished a book with hundreds of pages—not skimming, but completely understanding it, able to recite it backward.

Chen Shouyi closed the book, his thoughts returning to the space within his mind, muttering to himself, "The universe is finite but limitless. To humans, the universe might be like a group of two-dimensional beings living on the surface of a sphere, never perceiving the sphere as truly three-dimensional."

"Boom"

A flash of lightning exploded nearby, dimming the lights momentarily, but fortunately, the power didn't go out.

"Why's the thunder so loud today?"

Chen Shouyi's train of thought was interrupted. He stood up, placed the book back on the shelf, and walked to the bedroom to find the brave little one had curled up under the blanket, not even bothering to close the adjacent math book.

...

Somewhere in Zhonghai City, in a bedroom.

A young man jolted awake, breathing heavily, his face filled with terror, and his body drenched in sweat.

"Am I not dead!?"

His chest heaved as he sat up suddenly: "But where is this place?"

The sight before him seemed familiar, reminiscent of something. A hint of incredibility flashed in his eyes:

"This is my old home; this is Zhonghai!"

He glanced at the calendar on the desk: "July 30, 2017!"

"I've gone back two years?" he was initially delighted, only to soon become somber:

"However, there are only three months left until that battle. Humanity's last resistance will fail, the greatest of humans, General Manager Chen, will fall in battle, and the last light of human civilization will fade, ushering in the eternal darkness, with the entire Earth ruled by the Lord of Lightning."

Initially, the Great Xia Country was in chaos, with resistance popping up everywhere, involving both government troops and civilian organizations.

He was one of the resistance fighters.

Yet, it was short-lived.

As the Barbarian God's rule solidified, the cult's strength grew rapidly, with more people surrendering, betrayals becoming commonplace, and their actions becoming increasingly difficult. Finally, during a secret high-level meeting, they were completely surrounded by the Defender of the Faith...

"Damn it, three months is too little time to do anything." He rose from the bed, pacing anxiously. With his status, he had no idea where the God of Lightning would first manifest, nor could he lay an ambush.

"I should find General Manager Chen and stop him from going to his death. If General Manager Chen is around... maybe there's still hope."

Chapter 638 - Reincarnator?

Wang Shengyuan glanced at the time; it was already midnight. He had no choice but to suppress his thoughts and wait until tomorrow.

That night, he listened to the sound of thunderstorms outside, sitting idly all night with his mind cluttered with random thoughts.

It wasn't until he heard voices coming from the neighborhood outside his window that he suddenly woke up. He pulled back the curtains and realized the sky was already bright, and the rain had stopped.

He couldn't bother with refreshing himself and quickly went out the door, realizing he had no idea where Chief Advisor Chen lived.

Two years ago, he was just a major martial artist, not even a martial artist. Such a significant figure was beyond his reach.

He rode his bicycle and quickly headed to the district government.

Fortunately, his status as a major martial artist was sufficient, and he quickly met the district chief.

"Advisor Wang, what is your business with Chief Advisor Chen?" the district chief asked, somewhat perplexed.

Although Chen's home address wasn't completely confidential, it wasn't information to be casually disclosed either.

"I have a matter of utmost urgency to discuss!" Wang Shengyuan said seriously.

The district chief's face changed slightly upon hearing this: "Can Advisor Wang explain what the matter is?"

Wang Shengyuan hesitated, then slightly shook his head. This matter was too incredulous; he was insignificant, and whether the other party would believe him was uncertain. Moreover, even if he spoke about it, it wouldn't change the inevitable downfall of humanity.

Right now, the most important thing was to first find the God of Martial Arts, Chief Advisor Chen.

"This concerns Chief Advisor Chen's safety; I must see him to speak of it."

This statement was explosive, and the district chief immediately stood up:

"What!"

...

Before dawn, Chen Shouyi hurriedly left his house and traveled to the alternate world to continue his seclusion.

"Boom boom boom!"

Chen Shouyi's hands moved like ghostly shadows, and arrows shot out like a storm. Every arrow hit its target; despite not practicing much after his will transformed, his archery naturally reached a master level, each arrow seemingly carrying a guaranteed hit buff. As long as his eyes locked on, it wouldn't miss.

Unfortunately, this bow was too light for him; its power was too weak, far inferior to the casual strike of his Giant Transformation. He shot a few arrows, indulged his Divine Archer craving, then lost interest and threw the bow back into space.

He checked the attribute panel.

Strength: 21.5

Agility: 21.4

Constitution: 21.5

Intelligence: 21.2

Perception: 21.2

Will: 21.0

Energy Accumulation: 30.28

Faith Value: 1850.5

"Demigod attributes are roughly at 20, weak divine power is between 22 to 23 points, weak divine power... haven't encountered it, whereas moderate divine power is above 27 points." Chen Shouyi thought:

"My attributes are now close to weak divine power. With my two super innate abilities, even if I encounter the God of Flames again, it won't be as embarrassing as last time."

He took off his shirt, wearing only a pair of shorts, and began practicing "Horizontal Training" in the thirty-six style. However, after only a few hours of practice, he felt someone entering the nearby spatial passage.

Chen Shouyi turned his head to look, somewhat surprised. Since he arrived here, this passage had become like his private passage, with no one else entering or leaving except soldiers with business.

"Chen... Chief Advisor Chen, I finally found you?" Wang Shengyuan was both excited and nervous upon seeing Chen Shouyi from afar.

Chen Shouyi was puzzled; someone was indeed looking for him: "What do you need?"

"I... I'm called Wang Shengyuan. I have something important to tell you. I know what I'm about to say is incredible, but I swear every word is true!"

No matter how prepared he was mentally, truly facing this legendary God of Martial Arts capable of slaying gods meant feeling pressure. He felt a slight tremble in his voice.

Chen Shouyi listened, somewhat baffled but patient: "Um, go ahead!"

"I've been reborn from two years into the future..."

"Reborn from two years into the future?" Chen Shouyi interrupted.

"I... I know, this is hard to understand!" Wang Shengyuan saw Chen Shouyi's disbelieving expression and instantly became emotionally agitated: "But you must believe me, three months from now the God of Lightning will invade Great Xia Country, Great Xia Country will fall, and you will die... I'm here to remind you not to confront the God of Lightning but preserve your strength for the future."

Chen Shouyi was astonished.

Such nonsense.

Having read so many books, he was no longer ignorant like before.

Time could move forward but not reverse.

How could there be such a thing as rebirth, reversing the universe's time would require enough energy to destroy countless universes, even reversing one Solar System would likely consume the energy of several galaxies. It's unimaginable.

But since it involved his life and death, Chen Shouyi didn't dare be careless. He asked calmly: "Which God of Lightning?"

"I... I'm not sure. It is said to have been occupying America for some time!" Wang Shengyuan replied.

Chen Shouyi's heart went cold because indeed North and South America had been conquered by a powerful god. Such matters are unknown unless one reaches a certain level.

However, he didn't completely believe it, as rebirth was impossible. If reversing the world were so easy, the world would be in chaos.

Next, he carefully questioned Wang Shengyuan, discovering that his memories of the future were quite vague, only knowing roughly that in three months humanity would rapidly fall, and Chen Shouyi would die, but he couldn't recall any specifics.

"Do you remember what happened before the rebirth?"

"I remember!" Facing Chen Shouyi's questioning, Wang Shengyuan answered honestly, feeling something was amiss: "Before rebirth, I was in the mountains with other high-ranking officials for a secret meeting, unexpectedly betrayed by a traitor. Midway through the meeting, a cult surrounded us."

"Do you recognize the people at the meeting?"

"I know about half of them!" Wang Shengyuan confirmed, because for him, it was just yesterday and deeply memorable.

"Tell me a few names?" Chen Shouyi asked.

Wang Shengyuan was about to speak, but only opened his mouth and got stuck. He clearly felt he remembered deeply, but upon recalling he found he couldn't remember their names or even their appearances.

His memories of the future were remarkably fragile, unworthy of scrutiny, as if forcibly inserted.

"Chen... Chief Advisor Chen, I really... didn't deceive you?" Wang Shengyuan stammered, nervous.

"I believe you!" Chen Shouyi's expression also became serious: "From what I know, there are two ways to achieve similar effects; one is having prophecy or destiny-like innate abilities, the other... is someone altering your memories."

Cold sweat gradually seeped from Wang Shengyuan as he knew he didn't possess prophecy or destiny abilities. If it wasn't rebirth, then his memories were tampered with.

Chen Shouyi retrieved a shirt from space and put it on. At this point, he had no mood for training: "Where do you live, take me there!"

"Alright alright!" Wang Shengyuan was a bit lost, nodding quickly.

The two left the spatial passage and rode bicycles.

After half an hour, they reached a residential area.

Chen Shouyi checked around Wang Shengyuan's home: "Have any outsiders entered in the past few days?"

"No, I live alone and always keep to myself." Wang Shengyuan said anxiously: "Did you... discover something?"

Chen Shouyi shook his head without speaking.

There was no trace of energy, nor footprints; everything looked untouched by external forces. But from another perspective, it further indicated the power and mystery of this unknown intruder. He checked each room: "Let's go!"

Wang Shengyuan paused, a bit confused: "Chief Advisor Chen, where are we going next?"

"First to my place, I'll make a call, and there will be a special plane to take you to the capital. You didn't think this matter had simply ended, did you?"

Chapter 639 - Gloom

Zhonghai in August is as hot as a furnace.

Under the dazzling scorching sun, the asphalt road had melted, looking like a pool of languid chocolate. On the sycamore trees on both sides, the cicadas shouted tirelessly in a hoarse effort.

But this heat didn't affect Chen Shouyi at all.

Half an hour later.

Chen Shouyi brought Wang Shengyuan back home.

The house was empty.

"Make yourself comfortable," Chen Shouyi greeted.

"I... I'll just stand."

"No need to be formal, just relax. If you want water, help yourself."

Chen Shouyi said politely and then ignored him, picking up the phone in the living room and dialing the president's office. A moment later, the other side answered.

"General Manager Chen, sorry to keep you waiting. What can I do for you?" the president said politely.

"I have some important information!" Chen Shouyi's voice was serious. "Someone has obtained future memories, and it's not good. It might be a conspiracy or a prophecy; I'm not sure. But I think there is definitely vital information we need here."

The other side fell silent.

They didn't speak for a long time.

There was only the sound of heavy breathing, as if processing the information. A moment later, the president said solemnly, "Where is the person now?"

"At my house," Chen Shouyi said.

"All right, I'll send someone over immediately," the president said.

The two quickly ended the call.

Wang Shengyuan became somewhat restless.

"Don't worry, it's just cooperating with the investigation," Chen Shouyi comforted.

"I... I'm not nervous!" Wang Shengyuan took a deep breath and nodded heavily.

Before finding Chen Shouyi, he had already prepared himself to face anything, driven by his passionate desire to save humanity and a sense of sacred mission. He didn't think about anything else, but at this moment, when he was really about to face the national enforcement agency, he couldn't help being a little nervous.

"Don't worry, I guarantee you will be fine," Chen Shouyi said. Regardless of whether the situation is true or false, the fact that he came to warn him about future events and advised him not to take risks is enough to earn his gratitude.

Upon hearing this, Wang Shengyuan's nervous heart finally settled. With General Manager Chen's status, with those words, everything would be handled.

Chen Shouyi checked the time and found it was past noon. After thinking for a moment, he took out two test tubes from space and tossed them over: "I won't take you out for lunch, use this to fill your stomach."

Wang Shengyuan hurriedly caught them. Looking at the two test tubes in his hand that emitted a hazy golden glow, he couldn't help but think of something, his heart surging with excitement, and he asked in a trembling voice, "General Manager Chen, what... what's this?"

"Demigod Blood!" Chen Shouyi said.

These were leftovers from the last time he sent to two uncles' homes.

Chen Shouyi had asked for eighteen tubes, but the national office generously rounded it up and sent thirty tubes.

Hearing this, Wang Shengyuan's hand shook, almost crushing the test tube.

Is this for filling the stomach?

The realm of the bigwig is simply incomprehensible.

So extravagant, it's inhumanly extravagant.

"...This is too precious, I... I can't accept it..." Wang Shengyuan instinctively wanted to refuse.

"Take it," Chen Shouyi interrupted. "After the investigation, I'll give you some True God Flesh."

He still had more than twenty tons of True God Flesh with weak divine power, always piled up like garbage.

Wang Shengyuan was stunned by the offer, overwhelmed with emotion to the point of almost crying.

Finding General Manager Chen was really the right choice. This is more than just a thigh to lean on; it's a golden thigh. Even a single strand of hair from it is thicker than his leg.

It didn't take long.

A fully armed team of soldiers arrived.

Before taking Wang Shengyuan away, Chen Shouyi specifically reminded, "This is my friend, please treat him well."

"Please rest assured, General Manager Chen," the leading officer saluted and said hurriedly.

...

After everyone left, Chen Shouyi returned to his bedroom.

His heart was filled with gloom. This matter seemed a bit odd. He couldn't tell if it was the Barbarian God's interference or a premonition Wang Shengyuan obtained about the future.

"In three months, I will die, and humanity will be entirely lost?" he mumbled to himself, his expression heavy.

He realized this could very likely happen.

The current situation for humanity was already precarious. Ever since the United States fell, a pall hung over the globe. Eurasia had become the only and last bastion of resistance.

This God of Lightning could very well be even more formidable and terrifying than the God of Light, and he had little confidence facing the God of Light.

If faced directly, death was almost certain.

Outside, the blinding light pierced through the curtain's slit, casting a beam of light filled with dust particles dancing in the air.

"The most crucial thing now is to figure out what's going on," Chen Shouyi clenched his fist, the air rippling in waves.

"According to Wang Shengyuan's description, he went to sleep at ten last night and was shocked awake by eleven, which means if there really is a mysterious person altering memories, the biggest possibility is during this time!" Chen Shouyi mused.

"I hope the Book of Knowledge is strong enough!"

In the past, he never understood why the memory world of the Book of Knowledge was so much larger than his real memories.

It could see regions invisible to the naked eye and realize the physical nature of various substances beyond his understanding, extending its insight to a certain depth underground, almost indistinguishable from the real world.

Until he acquired three-dimensional vision, did he roughly understand what's going on.

The Book of Knowledge possesses three-dimensional, or possibly four-dimensional, detection capabilities.

It could use his eyes to perceive the surrounding world centered around him.

This amount of information is entirely astronomical.

Before the mutation, the computing power of all computers worldwide, including all mobile phones, couldn't sustain this almost realistic virtual world.

If this information were fed into his brain, his brain would probably burn out in just 0.1 seconds.

Chen Shouyi gently took the Shell Lady, who was sleeping soundly on his chest, out and carefully placed her on the bed.

Then, he lay beside her.

He quickly entered the Book of Knowledge Space.

He found the Memory Leaves of yesterday. To avoid unexpectedness, he chose to enter at nine o'clock, an hour early.

...

While boringly playing fly chess with the Shell Lady, Chen Shouyi's body trembled. He said to the Shell Lady:

"Little one, play by yourself. The Giant needs to go out for a bit."

"Are you quitting because you're losing?" the Shell Lady, who was enjoying the game, said sulkily.

Dumb Giant always did this; whenever she was winning, he didn't want to play anymore. What a miser.

She had already let him win several times.

"All right, let's play again when I get back," Chen Shouyi said helplessly.

This was too much.

The virtual world's Shell Lady was just as hard to deal with.

He reassured the Shell Lady, changed into a black outfit, then opened the window, soared into the night sky, and sped off after discerning the direction.

Chapter 640 - Revealed

The streetlights seem to have some unstable voltage, the light flickering between bright and dim.

Chen Shouyi stands in front of the window of a deserted building. In the distance, the residential area had no streetlights. Apart from the occasional dim glow from the windows, the entire community is shrouded in darkness.

The window of Wang Shengyuan's room is still lit by a kerosene lamp, indicating, as he said, that he hasn't gone to sleep yet.

To be cautious, this place is a full kilometer away from the community.

However, with his eyesight, this distance and darkness do not obstruct his vision in the slightest. He can even see through windows and bypass the blockage of walls, seeing a pair of naked men and women in bed...

Adulterous couple!

Eh, why did the two separate?

The man looks embarrassed, saying something, while the woman sits up in bed and seems to be comforting him.

Unexpectedly, he has erectile dysfunction.

Chen Shouyi immediately loses interest, shifts his gaze, and looks towards Wang Shengyuan's window.

He's cultivating in the living room; everything seems normal.

He looks down at the watch on his wrist: "Nine fifteen."

Which indicates that so far, everything is normal, the "rebirth" event hasn't started.

The upgraded Book of Knowledge has stronger insight capabilities than before, the straight-line distance from here to his home has an estimated thirty-plus kilometers, but it still materializes without error.

Time passes second by second, representing the gradual and gentle loss of his accumulated energy value.

However, at this moment, he is completely indifferent to regret.

Close to ten o'clock, Wang Shengyuan finally stops cultivating, heads to the bathroom for a shower, then extinguishes the kerosene lamp, ready to go to bed.

Chen Shouyi immediately becomes alert.

At this moment, all the lights of the residential tenants have disappeared, the whole community is in darkness, with only the dim streetlights across the street still shining.

He quietly waits.

As time discreetly crosses ten thirty.

Chen Shouyi suddenly sees a shadowy figure slowly approaching from the street. The patrolling soldiers seem oblivious, not even casting a glance. The figure seems to exist in a state of non-being.

Seeing this weird phenomenon, his heart sinks.

"This is indeed deliberate."

Seeing suspicious people at a suspicious time turns it into almost a certainty.

For whatever reason, when looking at this mysterious figure, Chen Shouyi feels a vague sense of déjà vu, as if he has seen him somewhere before. Yet when he tries to recall details, he finds no related memories.

He can't help but furrow his brow; such a thing is almost impossible for someone who controls all consciousness including the subconscious, tracing memories back to childhood.

At that moment, the figure seems aware and glances this way.

Chen Shouyi's heart skips a beat, and simultaneously, a feeling of creepiness reverberates from within, intuitively sensing a significant crisis.

Not good!

His expression changes, deciding instantly to exit the Book of Knowledge Space.

Chen Shouyi opens his eyes, gazes at the ceiling, heart pounding fiercely, feeling apprehensive.

This mysterious figure is immensely frightening, undoubtedly the most terrifying being he has encountered. He has a premonition if he didn't exit, the figure could inflict severe harm on him even in the Memory Virtual World.

In fact, any god with intermediate divine power can project their strength from the memory world to the real body.

And this being likely possesses... Powerful Divine Power!

How shocking that the Great Xia Country houses such a formidable presence, and even more baffling is that unlike other Barbarian Gods, no hint of Divine Power emanates from him, and ordinary people approaching him go unaffected.

Chen Shouyi gets up from bed, pacing back and forth, his mind in turmoil.

"But why is he doing this?" A feeling of doubt arises in his heart.

He carefully recalls his prior questioning of Wang Shengyuan concerning memories of the "future."

"Helping humanity?"

The thought barely emerges before Chen Shouyi dismisses it:

"The figure undoubtedly has personal motives, but at least one thing is clear. Whether due to self-interest or some mutual conflict, the figure does not wish for the God of Lightning to control the Earth." He ponders silently.

The figure is likely a deity on par with the God of Lightning.

He pulls the curtain open.

Blinding light floods into the room; upon seeing the bustling street and chimneys looming far away, he checks his attribute panel, discovering approximately one unit consumed.

He sighs, feeling as though a boulder presses on his heart:

"The situation is becoming increasingly complex; it is unclear if this is good or bad, and the most crucial question is, is this... prophecy true or false?"

He walks to the desk, picks up the phone, and calls the Presidential Office...

...

Chen Shouyi doesn't return to the parallel world. By evening, Father Chen and Mrs. Chen come back, surprised to see their son.

"Didn't you say you needed to continue your retreat?"

"Something came up, so I returned," Chen Shouyi replied.

"The restaurant had its trial opening today, and many old customers from Hedong came." Father Chen said enthusiastically.

"Indeed, quite a number. Many said they'd been searching for days." Mrs. Chen also smiled.

"This is why reputation is key for a restaurant. As long as prices are fair and the food is delicious, business is guaranteed regardless of location." Father Chen said smugly, patting his belly.

Chen Shouyi, standing aside, hesitated to speak, finally refraining from mentioning the potential upheaval three months ahead.

Such matters are too heavy; knowing changes little, sometimes ignorance is preferable.

Moreover, the event might not even occur, and perhaps humanity can triumph over the God of Lightning.

After all, prophecy is prophecy, not reality.

...

After dinner, Chen Shouyi returns to his bedroom when the phone rings.

He answers the call.

Realizing it's the President.

"... According to your description of this mysterious figure, the intelligence agency searched related files and found a match with a creature from the parallel world, code-named 'Ghost', who transforms into a human. The photos and information have been dispatched by special jet and should be in your hands by ten tonight; check if it matches this 'person'.

"Has he appeared before?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"Yes, quite special, unlike ordinary Barbarian Gods, seemingly disinterested in faith. He frequented Earth even before the anomalies. We attempted to kill him, but he always evades our efforts." The President remarked gravely.

Listening to the President's words, Chen Shouyi feels a growing sense of déjà vu, as if he encountered him before.

Suddenly, a memory flashes, and he promptly says, "Alright, once I receive the photos, I will call you back."

Then he hangs up.

Chen Shouyi recalls three years ago, attending the Martial Artist test in Hedong, bizarre incidents occurred on the train.

Even though traces of the presence were long erased from his memory, the illogical discord and clues left behind remind him of what he had encountered.

"Could it be the same being?"